



# HIGHLAND COUNTY

2023 Impact Report





## A YEAR OF IMPACT

As the regional JobsOhio network partner, Ohio Southeast Economic Development (OhioSE) experienced a year of growth, supporting 38 business expansion and attraction projects across the region. The businesses we helped pledged to create 865 new jobs and invest over \$233 million in fixed assets. To support those projects, our organization helped secure \$5.2M+ of support from JobsOhio and \$620k+ from the State of Ohio in assistance programs.

## HIGHLAND COUNTY

### 2023 PROJECT WINS

The Hillsboro Business Complex, LLC in collaboration with JobsOhio, Ohio Southeast Economic Development (OhioSE), and the city of Hillsboro, announced a \$1,038,000 investment to redevelop three adjacent buildings in the historic section of downtown Hillsboro. The development includes the renovation of existing office space on the ground floor and the creation of co-working/shared workspace on the second floor of all three buildings. The Hillsboro Business Complex is a mixed-use project totaling 7,048 square feet and spanning three buildings. The complex will house the Highland County Chamber of Commerce, the Highland County Visitors Bureau, Highland County Economic Development Office, Hapner Law Office, Bell City School of Music, and The Hive, which will be 3,348 square feet of co-working space. OhioSE facilitated a JobsOhio Vibrant Community Grant of \$415,200 to support the revitalization project. Grand Opening event scheduled March 4, 2024

### 2023 SITE UPDATE

- County had **5** site visits and **39** sites submissions to clients in 2023. Additional Request for Information were considered but did not go on to JobsOhio clients for consideration due to various factors required by the RFI. In 2022, Highland County did not have any site visits, so in one year the general interest in the area has increased activity and the county is actively pursuing opportunities.
- **Featured Sites: South Central Ohio Industrial Park & Leesburg Industrial Park both SiteOhio authenticated. Highland County has 2 of the 11 featured sites in the region.**
- Additional Listed Properties (7)
  - 1418 Oakleaf Rd
  - 1487 N High St
  - 512 S Washington St
  - 101 N Shore Dr

## COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- JobsOhio Vibrant Communities Program eligible communities include Greenfield, Highland, Hillsboro, Lynchburg, Mowrystown and (added in 2024) Sinking Spring. Leesburg is not eligible in 2024.
- JobsOhio/OhioSE co-sponsoring 2024 Highland County Day at the Statehouse; sponsored Highland County Chamber Golf Outing in 2023

## MARKETING THE REGION

- Drone video and photo footage captured on industrial sites; quality of life photos in Hillsboro captured in 2023
- OhioSE website redesign planned for 2024; look forward to linking with Highland County Economic Development new website in near future
- JOIG Case Studies & #WeAreOhioSE featured stories available

## ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

- Lightcast Q4 2023 Data Set



## TALENT AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- OhioSE Talent Team networks with Highland County Economic Development and JobsOhio to provide talent services and project strategy development. Talent has been part of discussions with BR&E visits to Highland County businesses.
- JobsOhio and OhioSE take a consultative service approach customized for each company based on requirements for the proposed project and makes referrals when necessary, partnering with BestOhio Industry Sector Partnership, OSU Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), TechSolve, local Ohio Means Jobs (OMJ) and Workforce Development Boards.
- OhioSE continues to provide marketing recruitment, and retention advising services for Seal-tite. through the OhioSE, Highland County Economic Development, OSU MEP and OMJ partnership efforts, Seal-tite has retained 116 current employees, hired 45 new, increased hourly wages, trained 30 employees in the Basics of Lean, and conducted Leadership and Microsoft Excel training.
- OhioSE coordinates with local schools and organizations to assist with career awareness and engagement and regularly communicates with regional partners like Building Bridges to Careers and FuturePlans.
- OhioSE fully supports Highland County ACCESS Program and encourages companies such as Adient, Seal-tite, Corvac, and Candle-lite to engage with the program in order to participate in their future workforce pipeline.
- OhioSE hosted a HR Best Practices Webinar on the topic of *Why So Many DEI Efforts Fail*. Dr. Jeanne Holmes, Director of HR Services Group at RiskVersity, conducted a 60-minute zoom webinar to give employers in the region knowledge and tools to develop, expand, and/or implement an affective Diversity, Equity and Inclusion policy, and provided context to what leadership can do to implement a successful workplace culture. This webinar was free to regional employers and economic development partners.

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